

ger, of Nashville, Tenn. A few of them may here be put on record. *Forestiera ligustrina* does not (like *F. acuminata*) blossom in early spring from axils of the preceding year. On the cedar barrens near Nashville, where it abounds, the fragrant flowers develop about the middle of August from the axils of the leaves of that year; and the fruit ripens at the end of September. That of *F. acuminata*, which blossoms very early, is ripe before the end of May. *Tragia macrocarpa*.—Both surfaces of the leaves bear stinging hairs. *Phlox Stellaria*.—This neat and rare species is found at Lavergne, seventeen miles from Nashville, in cedar barrens, growing in beds of sphagnum and other mosses, in moist places. *Thermopsis Caroliniana*, a most rare species, has been found by Dr. Gottinger on the Harpeth hills, near Nashville.—A. GRAY.

LITTORELLA AND SCHIZÆA IN NOVA SCOTIA.—It is singular how a long-overlooked plant, once detected, is then promptly found again and again. Following upon Mr Pringle's announcement of the second discovery of *Littorella lacustris* (at the northern end of Lake Champlain), I have now to announce that Miss Elizabeth G. Knight, of the New York Normal College, found it in August last, growing abundantly between the stones on the shores of Grand Lake, Nova Scotia, twenty-three miles from Halifax.

Botanists will be equally interested to know that she also detected, among the rhizomes of *Osmunda regalis*, near the lake shore, the rare *Schizæa pusilla*. La Pylaie's specimens in his herbarium at Paris, collected in Newfoundland about sixty years ago (which I have seen), had accredited this plant to New Foundland; but I believe no one has since found it out of New Jersey until this happy discovery by Miss Knight in an adjacent portion of British America.—A. GRAY.

THE COEFFICIENT OF CONTRACTION.—My attention was lately drawn to a remarkable case of the difference in length, produced by unequal "seasoning," in the two sides of an oak post. The post referred to is about four inches square; one end is sunk in the ground and the other projects ten and one half feet above the surface. When placed in position some time ago it was straight and perpendicular; at the present time it leans toward the south, deviating a little over a foot from the perpendicular. The post was "set with the compass," and it is interesting to note that a north and south line lies in the plane of the curve.

Experiments have given us the coefficients of expansion in different metals. Why may we not have experiments to determine the coefficients of contraction in different woods, i. e., to determine the fractional decrease in length produced in rods of "green" wood, 1 meter long and 2 cm. square, by the application of a steady and absolute dry heat for a given length of time? The knowledge would be of no practical importance perhaps, but it might bring out unsuspected correlation between looseness of tissue and amount of contraction.—C. R. BARNES, *La Fayette, Ind.*